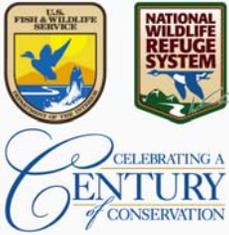


# THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

## RETIRED

February 2003



Check out the Fish & Wildlife Service Retirees Website: <http://training.fws.gov/history/retirees.html>

Planning is in the final stages for the National Centennial Celebration at Pelican Island NWR, the Pelican Island Preservation Society Wildlife Festival, and the Fish & Wildlife Service Retirees Reunion.

Centennial events kick off on Thursday, March 13, with the unveiling of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Time Capsule Exhibit. The exhibit includes artifacts from many refuges across the country. This local event includes a speech from FWS Director Williams, entertainment by a Theodore Roosevelt impersonator, the Peabody Orlando Ducks, and local school children performances. FWS Historian Mark Madison will offer an interpretive tour of the display after the short ceremony.

On Friday, March 14, the Celebration of American Conservation - 100 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System begins. The grand celebratory events will include: a Presidential proclamation for the Year of the National Wildlife Refuge, Walt Disney World's Voices of Liberty, the U.S. Postal Service's First Day of Issue Ceremony for the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Commemorative Postage Stamp, speeches by Secretary Norton and Director Williams, historical re-enactment of Pelican Island's history featuring a Theodore Roosevelt impersonator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service exhibits featuring National Wildlife Refuges, and food vendors.

The Wildlife Festival is sponsored by the Pelican Island Preservation Society. It was formed in 1993 as a non-profit environmental education organization to promote the Pelican Island NWR. Their Wildlife Festival will run Saturday and Sunday featuring a live wildlife show by TV personalities Jack Hanna and Ron Fowler; special reserve boat tours and kayak tours to Pelican Island and the Indian River Lagoon; over 100 environmental exhibits and demonstrations including touch tanks and live birds of prey; live wildlife shows; wildlife & nature arts and crafts exhibits; live music; historical re-enactments featuring a President Theodore Roosevelt impersonator and a presentation of the "Feather Wars" skit; amateur photography contest exhibition; youth poster contest display; hands-on kid's activities; wildlife seminars; book signings; food vendors; boat tour to Pelican Island and butterfly seminar with birder and conservationist, Kenn Kaufman.

### The Arrangements

As of this writing, rooms at the government rate are still available. So far, over 150 Retirees and spouses have

indicated they plan to attend and have reserved rooms, and that doesn't count those staying in RV parks, with friends or live close enough to commute.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the FWS Retirees Group have set aside a major portion of **The Holiday Inn Melbourne Beach Resort**. This is an ocean front hotel and will serve as the headquarters hotel for the reunion. Extra special room rates were secured at \$73 + tax per room per night [\$80.30 including tax]. To make reservations call the national reservation number **1-800-465-4329** and specify the group code rate **USF**. The rate applies until the hotel is sold out or *February 15, 2003* -- whichever occurs first. If you encounter any problems, call Denny or Jerry, pronto.

**Denny Holland Ph: 1-877- 831- 5591. [toll free]**  
**Jerry Grover Ph: 503- 684-1809. or**  
**e-mail: Groverjerry.judy@att.net**

### Attending? We Need to Know

1. **The names of you and your spouse that you want on name tags *plus* any guests that may be joining you.**
2. **Will you be attending the:  
Thursday icebreaker?  
Saturday night banquet?**

**The hotel needs a head count for planning purposes. Please let Denny or Jerry know at:**

**Denny Holland Ph: 1-877- 831- 5591 [toll free]**  
**Jerry Grover Ph: 503- 684-1809. or**  
**e-mail: Groverjerry.judy@att.net**

### The Events

Retirees attending the Thursday and Friday events shown on the agenda will be transported by bus to the event sites at Riverview Park (special VIP seating for Retirees) in nearby Sebastian and the Pelican Island NWR boardwalk and viewing site. This will eliminate individual drivers searching for the event sites and even harder, finding a convenient place to park.

While the agenda isn't yet 100% final for all the arranged Centennial events, it provides a general scope of the activities being planned. The final agenda will be available at registration.

The "Parade of Flags" event will not happen. But all 576 refuge and wetland management district flags will be on display at the celebration showing the enormity of the refuge system. The logistics and the time constraints for doing the parade with flags were getting too complex to pull off.

## Registration

Cost is *estimated* \$40 per person and will be collected as a registration fee. If any funds remain after covering retiree expenses, the leftover dollars will be donated to the Pelican Island Preservation Society with the understanding it will go to meet the highest Refuge outreach priority. Conversely, any shortfall -- hopefully this won't happen -- we will pass the hat. In planning for this event, Denny Holland has sought every conceivable price break and donation (total or partial) to make this an affordable and fun social event with friends and former colleagues.

Registration is intended to cover the following:

- **Icebreaker** 'Taste of Florida' Hors d'oeuvres (from 7:30 to 9:00), draft beer (until it runs out) from the Indian River Brewing Co., and soft drinks will be served. There will be an appearance by the Orlando Peabody Ducks. Wine and mixed drinks will be available at a cash bar. .
- **Banquet** A sit down banquet featuring both a local fish and beef as the entrée. A cash bar will be available. There will be a presentation of awards ceremony and the drawing for the door prizes.
- **Chances for the door prize drawings at the banquet**
- **Tote bag with goodies**
- **Coffee break**
- **Continental breakfast Sunday morning**

## Heritage Collection

The museum at the NCTC and Spearfish will be accepting donations of FWS related memorabilia suitable for the Fish & Wildlife Service museum collection. Here is the opportunity to add to the extensive historical collection of important materials. Bring an item(s) from your career to donate and enter the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 'Old Artifact Contest' (spouses not accepted). You just might win a nice prize. Jeannie Harold, FWS Museum Curator at 1-800-553-9472, x 7285 will answer any questions you might have.

## Other News

The retirees reunion in 2002 gathered at Spearfish, South Dakota, to help celebrate the Fishery Resources Program 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was only the beginning of a new era to celebrate a proud past, leading to a bright future. At a national Fisheries Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., on January 21-24, over 500 leaders from the Fish & Wildlife Service, State conservation agencies, Tribes, and the private sector convened for the unveiling of the collaborative, *Conserving America's Fisheries -- The Fisheries Program's Vision for the Future*. The vision was developed with input by a wide array of individuals and organizations, affiliated partners and stakeholders, with interests in America's fishery conservation management. Implementation stresses a commitment to include partnerships at all levels and with willing organizations. In this effort, Director Steve Williams has pledged to put the 'fish' back into the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The initiative has been widely received and supported. Secretary Norton in her address to the gathering pledged her support and in a surprise advanced announcement, revealed that the Bush administration is proposing to increase the National Fish Hatchery System Budget Request to Congress by a whopping 16% for FY 2004.

The Southeast Region 4 Refuge Project Leaders and their primary Assistants have recently been approved to attend a NWR Workshop in Melbourne. An estimated 70 current staff will be staying at area hotels at the same time as Retirees and have been invited to join us for the Thursday evening Icebreaker. Also, the Refuge System has invited 150 FWS personnel from across the United States to attend the Centennial ceremonies. These folks will represent the maintenance, technical, administrative, outreach and other job categories. They too have been invited to join us at the icebreaker.

Many of the Fish and Wildlife Service Directorate team will be meeting in the area and attending the Centennial celebration functions. Both Director Steve Williams and Deputy Director Marshall Jones are invited to the Saturday evening banquet. Former Heritage Committee chairman Dale Hall, now Regional Director in Albuquerque, has arranged his schedule and will join the retiree's banquet.

Also, if you are willing to donate an item suitable for a door prize drawing, please let Denny or Jerry know and bring that item too. Some really nice surprise gifts have already been lined up.

If you are planning other activities (fishing? golfing?) during your stay in Florida, the Melbourne and Space Coast Chamber of Commerce can provide access and information to any number of businesses in the area. Their number is **1-800-771-9922** or **chamber@melpb-chamber.org**.

## In Memoriam

During the past couple of months, I have been informed of the loss of former colleagues.

- **Clay Young**, of heart failure complicated by diabetes on January 19 in Kingsland, TX
- **David Eland Olsen**, of complications of Wegener's Granulomatosis on January 14, 2003, Roanoke, VA
- **Wallace Harding Anderson**, died on January 9, 2003, in Denver, CO
- **Ed Roby**, apparently fell on a flight of stairs at home in Bozeman, Montana, January 3.
- **Harvey Willoughby**, passed away at his home in Montrose, Colorado, Dec. 15 at the age of 84. He had been fighting Lymphoma cancer.
- **Red Williamson**, died the morning of December 3 from kidney cancer in Scio, Oregon.
- **Maurice "Andy" Anderson**, 79, on November 12, 2002, in Pierre, South Dakota
- **William (Bill) Wishon**, Drasco, AR., November 2002.
- **James McGregor Coutts** passed away November 1, 2002 at home in Grand Junction, CO, at age 87.
- **William Edward Green**, Winona, WI, October 5, 2002